

34^e FESTIVAL MONDIAL DE L'IMAGE SOUS-MARINE



Christie Davis, 18 ans, Roumanie

ANTIBES - ALPES-MARITIMES

PRÉ AUX PÊCHEURS - ANTIBES - PORT VAUBAN

24 au 28 octobre 2007



SOUS LE PATRONAGE DE
JEAN LÉONETTI, DÉPUTÉ-MAIRE D'ANTIBES
ET DE CHRISTIAN ESTROSIO,
PRÉSIDENT DU CONSEIL GÉNÉRAL DES ALPES-MARITIMES



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60 participants attended this years Digital Shoot Out in Bonaire from June 16th to 23rd.

Now in its 6th year this is an established event in the underwater photography calendar and is the ideal trip to practice and learn from experienced professionals.

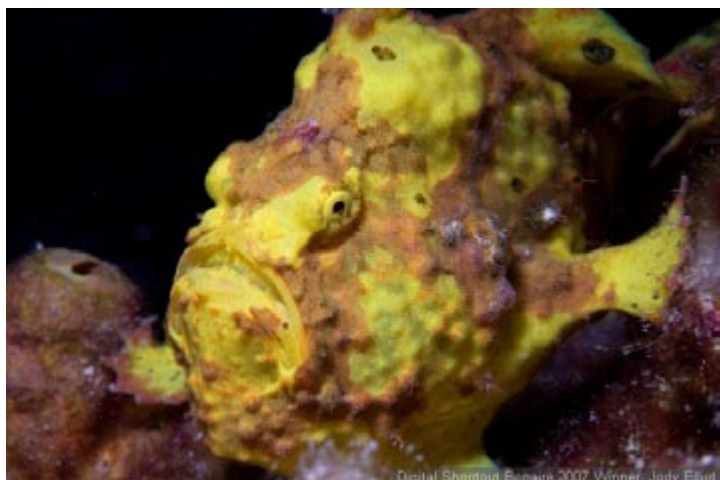
The venue for this years event was the Divi Flamingo's Resort which incorporates Capture Photo, the underwater photo and video shop.



Wide-Angle Traditional

1st Place: Clark Miller.

Prize: Kararu 7-night liveaboard trip



*Macro Traditional,
1st Place Jody Elliot
Prize: Sea & Sea DX-D200 housing*



Wide-Angle Unrestricted,

1st Place Brad Brown

Prize: Wakatobi 7-night trip

In an action packed week participants got to dive the beautiful reefs around Bonaire and learn from lectures given by Berkley White of Backscatter, Jim Watt from Hawaii, Eric Cheng from Wetpixel, Dan and Mary Lynn on video and Dan Baldocchi from Light & Motion.

At the end of the week there was a competition in 5 categories for shots taken during the week.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the shootout! As they like to say each year, "All of us are winners. Some are just more prize-challenged."

www.diviflamingo.com
www.capturecaribbean.com

<http://wetpixel.com/i.php/full/digital-shootout-bonaire-2007-winners/>

www.uwpmag.com

CMAS 11th World Underwater Championships

A Judge's Perspective

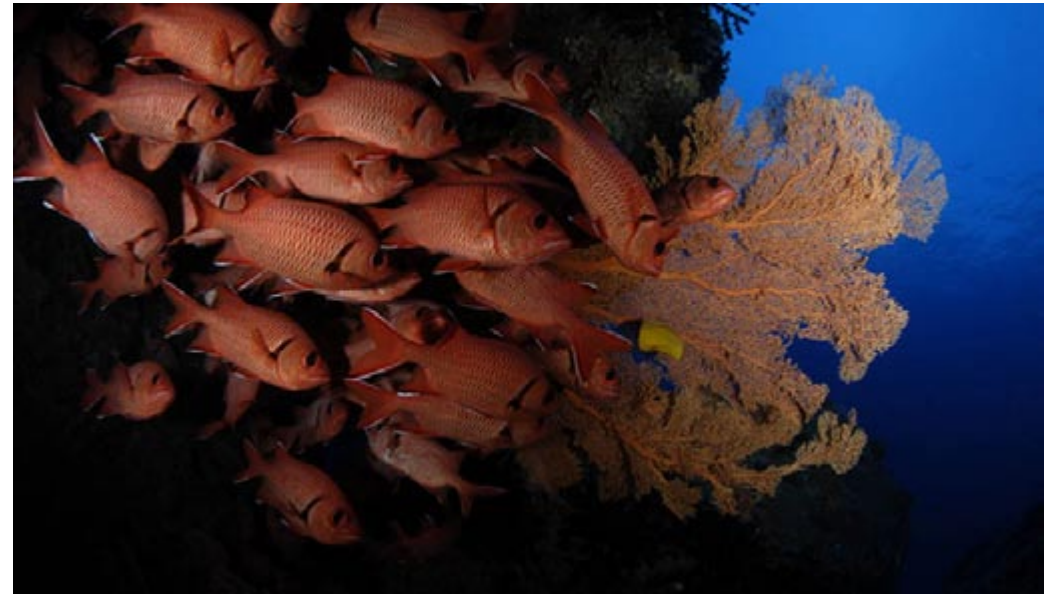
By Mathieu Meur

Held over 4 days in May 2007 in Mauritius, the 11th CMAS World Underwater Photo Championship gathered 27 photographer-model teams from 16 countries and 4 continents, vying for the coveted title of World Champion.

Organised by the Mauritian Scuba Divers Association (MSDA) and the CMAS (World Underwater Federation, founded by Jacques Cousteau), the competition was held under the watchful eyes of 7 international judges, including former World Champions FrÈdÈric Di MÈglio, Andrea Giulianini, and JosÈ Luis Gonzàles, cinematographer Mike Valentine, as well as world-renowned photographers Mathieu Meur and Michael Aw (also founder and publisher of several dive publications), and Anna Arzhanova (president of the CMAS Sports Committee).

For the first time since its inception, the championship allowed only digital cameras, demonstrating a firm resolution to usher the event into the next era of underwater photography. On the flip side, the switch to an all-digital competition resulted in a lower than usual turn-out, with half the number of participants as compared to previous years, numerous previous competitors still shooting film. In addition, the judges all agreed that the overall quality of the entries was below par for a competition of this level. Again, this can certainly be explained by the fact that most participants only made a late switch to digital camera systems.

Under the rules of the competition Carlos Minguell Banos from Spain was the overall winner despite not having won any of the 5 categories because he was the most consistent in all of the categories and so scored the highest points.



Hopefully, both issues should be ironed out by the next edition of the event, due to be held in Korea in 2009.

For this championship, competitors were allowed to take only 100 photos per diving day, and had to submit one photo in each of the five selected categories, namely Wide-Angle With Diver, Wide-Angle Without Diver, Macro With Theme (this year's theme was Crustaceans), Macro Without Theme, and Fish. No digital manipulations were allowed. All the photos submitted had to be exactly as they were taken in-camera.

The winning entries were selected in two

The judges are intently poring over the pictures one last time before giving their final verdict





(Left) Laurent Beche (2nd place, from France) and (above) Rui Guerra (3rd place, from Portugal).

steps. First, all the photos were scored by the judges in a private session, and the 10 best shots in each category were set aside. At this stage, the identity of the authors of the photos was not disclosed to the judges. Some entries were disqualified from the outset for obviously flouting the competition rules such as manipulating living organisms or digitally modifying pictures.

Next, the judges, organisers, participating

teams, guests and the press assembled in a large cinema hall for the final judging session which was carried out in public. Having participated in a number of photo competitions as a judge in the past, this particular experience was rather new to me. However, it was reminiscent of the judging process for large international sporting events, like gymnastics or ice skating. For this second round of judging, the identities of the photographers were revealed to all before scores were given. However, in order to prevent any bias, the highest and lowest score given were not taken into consideration in the final tally, only the five other results were considered. Again, this is in line with what is practised at the highest sporting competition level.

Most impressive were the large technical means deployed for this public judging session. A professional electronic scoring system supplied by Omega was at hand, displaying in real-time the

scores given by each judge to individual entries, and updating the score of the participants as the judging progressed.

Due to the comparatively low level of the entries this year, some of the judges elected to push the scores up to obtain a wider spread, while others preferred to score the pictures for what they deemed worth, occasionally resulting in some good-humoured booing from the public.

A winner and two runner-ups were thus determined for each category, and the participant with the overall highest score (based on the sum of his scores in each of the five categories) was crowned World Champion. In the roll-of-honour this year, were Carlos Minguell Banos (1st place, from Spain), Laurent Beche (2nd place, from France) and Rui Guerra (3rd place, from Portugal). The scoring system did draw some flak, as it can result in someone who is consistently in the top 10 being voted best photographer overall, without once stepping on the podium in individual categories. However, the system emphasises consistency in all aspects of photography, rather than outstanding performance in a particular style of subject.

After the final results were unveiled, all those involved in the event gathered back at the Suffren Hotel for a much deserved cocktail dinner, featuring local fare, and famed Mauritian rum, before flying back home in the wee hours of the morning.

To find out more about the CMAS and the World Underwater Photo Championship, check out:

<http://www.cmas.org>

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